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Early Adopter J2SE 1.4

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Summary

Due for release in quarter 4 of 2001, version 1.4 of the Java 2 Platform, Standard Edition, is set to be the biggest upgrade to the functionality of the basic Java platform since the release of Java 2 over two years ago. The latest version, until recently known by the codename Merlin, represents a true commitment by Sun and the Java community to turn Java into a viable client platform, after several years of concentrating on the server.

Early Adopter J2SE 1.4 presents and assesses the significance of the changes to the Java 2 platform that Merlin introduces. We will be looking at functions that have been added or modified, and see how they impact on the Java application developer's life. Throughout this book, we will use the public beta version of the J2SE 1.4 SDK to demonstrate the platform's new capabilities.

This book covers:

- Installation and working with the J2SE 1.4 public beta
- The new I/O framework
- Improvements for client and GUI applications including JNLP
- Java's new built-in XML capabilities
- New utility functions including preferences and regular expressions
- Additional features to the Java language, such as assertions
- A look to the additional features in the future of the Java 2 platform

This book is for professional Java developers who are keen to keep up to date with the new features and functionality offered by the latest version of the J2SE. This is done via discussions and illustrations of the new features, together with practical code examples with plenty of opportunities for experimentation and exploration. This methodology will make the changes and upgrades to the latest version of the Java 2 Platform easily apparent and understandable.

This book was written using the Sun J2SDK 1.4.0b2 release of the J2SE 1.4 platform. While we can't guarantee that the final version will be identical, you can be sure that all the concepts, examples, and explanations will still be valid for the final 1.4.0 release, scheduled for late quarter 4 of 2001.

James Hart is a writer and programmer, employed as a Technical Architect on the Early Adopter editorial team at Wrox Press. As well as writing this book, he has also contributed to the Wrox books Professional Java XML and Java XML Programmer's Reference, in both cases writing about IBM's Java-based Web Services platform.

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